

IVI-IPO 2006 GENERAL ASSEMBLY QUESTIONNAIRE – Section 1

DATE January 2, 2006 **DISTRICT:** 25, Representative **PARTY:** Democratic

NAME: Barbara Flynn Currie **VOTING ADDRESS:** 5650 S. Harper Ave., Chicago IL 60637_

HOME PHONE: 773-643-5237 **BUSINESS PHONE:** 773-667-0550

CAMPAIGN ADDRESS: 5650 S. Harper Ave., Chicago IL 60637 (temporary, as we search for a campaign headquarters)

CAMPAIGN PHONE: 773-643-5237; 773-241-6800 **FAX:** 773-643-2933

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CAMPAIGN MANAGER: Still looking for one.

NUMBER OF PETITION SIGNATURES FILED: about 3500 **NUMBER REQUIRED:** 500

Please use an additional sheet to complete the following background information:

A) Elective or appointive public or party offices previously held including dates. I have been a member of the Illinois House of Representatives since 1979. I was elected a Harold Washington delegate to the 1984 Democratic National Convention and appointed a Gore delegate to the Convention in 2000 and a Kerry delegate in 2004. I served as a member of the Electoral College both in 2000 and 2004.

B) Other elective offices for which you have been a candidate. None.

C) What is your primary occupation? Lawmaker.

D) Briefly list your civic activities of the past ten years. I am a member of the Board of the ACLU of Illinois. Until it closed, I was a member of the Harris Center YWCA Advisory Board in Woodlawn. I am currently a member of the Hyde Park-Kenwood Community Conference, the League of Women Voters, Women United for South Shore, the Sierra Club and, of course, IVI-IPO.

E) What subjects have you studied and what experience have you had which will be most helpful to you in the office you seek? I have both a bachelor's and a master's degree in political science from the University of Chicago. My work in the legislature—in committees, on task forces and on the floor—has given me a strong grasp on the effective use of the legislative process and a strong sense of the needs of the people of the state. I stay in touch with community groups in the district and with advocacy groups across Illinois. I currently chair a special committee overseeing the conversion of community human services from a grant to a fee-for-service funding methodology.

F) What candidates have you supported? Please be specific in describing your role in each campaign. I was a very early supporter of Harold Washington for Mayor in 1983 and of course for his re-election campaign in 1987. I worked for the Hon. Carol Moseley Braun in her quest for nomination and election to the U.S. Senate in 1992 and, again, in 1998. I've worked for both Aldermen Preckwinkle and Hairston. I worked hard for the nomination of Senator Barack Obama, and I was also an early supporter of Atty. Gen. Lisa Madigan.

G) Please list all endorsements you have received so far. My list of endorsements, to date, includes Hons. Barack Obama, Toni Preckwinkle, Leslie Hairston and John Pope. I also have support from many community, civic, advocacy and labor leaders.

H) As concisely as possible, please state why you feel you should be endorsed over the other candidate(s). What goals for the office you seek are most important to you personally? I am an experienced, effective, and progressive legislator. My record, measured by IVI-IPO's own vote listings, consistently rates commendations from your organization. I am proud to be independent, elected by volunteers and responsive directly to the voters of my district. I authored the state's first Freedom of Information Act, and I've sponsored successful measures to reform nursing home care, prohibit sexual harassment in the workplace, protect Illinois ground

water, improve child support and initiate state pre-school and full-day kindergarten programs. My goals are to continue my work, in Springfield and in the district, to improve programs in public welfare, civil rights, education and government reform. High on my wish list are measures to curb gun violence and to ensure state employee wage rates that do not discriminate on the basis of race or gender.

I) What is your campaign budget? How much have you raised to date? The campaign account is fairly flush, approximately \$250,000. We are in the process of establishing a campaign budget.

J) How many people are on your campaign staff? How many volunteers are on your list? We are currently in the market for campaign staff, and our volunteer list numbers in the hundreds.

IVI-IPO 2006 GENERAL ASSEMBLY QUESTIONNAIRE – Section 2

	YES	NO	Elections & Ethics
			Do you support:
1.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	moving the primary election date?
	ESSAY		If so, to what month? I have sponsored legislation to move the primary to May, a time when the weather is more conducive to bringing out the vote. I have reservations about a September primary on the grounds that independents and challengers might find it difficult to organize volunteer campaigns during the summer vacation-prone months and might find it difficult to reunite base support in the short time between a fall primary and a fall general election.
2.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	keeping voters' political party preferences in the primary elections secret?
3.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	reestablishing straight party voting in general elections?
4.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	any other changes in Illinois' election laws?
	ESSAY		Please explain. As mentioned above, I support an open primary. As well, I support the short ballot and, at the statewide level, would grant the executive the authority to appoint other executive officers. I also support a single system of voter registration under the National Voter Registration Act.
5.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support restoration of cumulative voting for the Illinois House of Representatives?
	ESSAY		If so, please describe the plan you support. I served my first two terms in the House under the cumulative voting system. I think that system did a good job of making sure that minority interests had direct representation in the legislature. It also helped to break down barriers within political parties and across geographic barriers.
6.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Should Illinois institute instant run-off voting?
7.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support changes in the way judges are selected?
	ESSAY		If so, please give a brief description of the system you support. I strongly support merit selection of the Illinois judiciary, and I would be delighted if we could enact a system that calls for nominations from blue-ribbon panels of lawyers and lay persons with ultimate selection by the Governor. Voters generally know little about candidates for the judiciary

			and, as judging is not supposed to be a policy-making position, it isn't clear on what basis voters should choose among competing candidates. Our judicial and judicial-retention ballots are long, confusing and intimidating. Voters leaving the polls too often feel as if they've just failed Civics 101—not a feeling that encourages them to return to the polls when it's time for the next election.
8.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you believe that appointments to judicial vacancies should be based on nominations from local review panels?
	ESSAY		If not, would you recommend any changes in the current system? Please explain.
			Do you support:
9.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	public financing of election campaigns?
10.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	limits on campaign contributions and political committee transfers?
11.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	restricting campaign fundraising during legislative sessions?
12.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	limiting contributions to political campaigns by dollar amount or source?
			Do you support
13.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	legislation to prohibit incumbency and political affiliation as criteria in the mapping process for Congressional, Legislative and local government electoral districts?
14.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	creation of a non-partisan Commission to draw maps instead of the General Assembly?
15.	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	Do you support permitting state employees to hold other public sector jobs concurrently?
16.	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	Do you support patronage?
	ESSAY		Please explain your position. The taxpayers are entitled to a workforce hired and promoted on the basis of merit. Patronage policies put a priority on work for politicians and parties, not the needs of the general public.
Taxes and Economic Policy			
			Do you support:
17.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	instituting a graduated income tax?
18.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	increasing income taxes to relieve or replace local property taxes and increase state funding of education?
19.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	maintaining the current corporate/individual ratio in income taxes?
20.	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	Do you support casino gambling in Cook County? I would point out, however, that it's difficult to oppose expansion of legalized gambling in a state that runs a monopoly lottery and permits horse race betting both on and off the track. And it's difficult for a city to turn its back on those who propose major financial investments. But it's hard for me to believe that Chicago can't call on many more productive resources in its quest for economic rejuvenation.
	YES	NO	
21.	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	Will you support legislation requiring citizen referenda at the state or local level before casino gambling is expanded?
	ESSAY		If so, at which level and why? I don't support the referenda approach. I believe in representative government, and I don't believe the public should vote, as it seems they do in California, on every public policy question that comes down the pike. If the citizens don't approve a lawmaker's record, they should vote that lawmaker out of office.

			Do you support
22.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	prohibit confession of judgment clauses in consumer contracts?
23.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	allow expanded private rights of action?
24.			allow expanded rights of litigation? If there current laws limit the ability of consumers to redress grievances—similar to the issue of private rights of action—I would support changes.
25.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	mandate attorney fees to be awarded to successful plaintiffs?
26.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	provide for any other changes? Please specify.
			Do you support legislation
27.	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	banning Pay Day loans? But I did support legislation prohibiting rollovers and ending other abuses in the industry.
28.	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	banning or restricting ATM fees?
29.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	capping credit card interest rates? I would favor reasonable caps—the catch, of course, is defining reasonable.
Education			
30.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Will you vote to increase state funding to at least 50% of public education costs?
31.	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	Do you support vouchers or other means of public funding for private or parochial schools?
32.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support public funding of charter or contract schools?
	ESSAY		Please explain your position. I support charter schools to a degree. Charter schools can serve as laboratories, helping educators find new ways to do business. The risk is the charter movement growing without adequate controls and failing to ensure that the lessons penetrate the public system. We have some excellent charters in Chicago—we've also experienced charters that have failed their children abysmally.
Civil Rights & Civil Liberties			
33.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support Affirmative Action?
34.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Will you vote to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment?
			Do you favor legislation
35.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	legalizing civil marriage between two people of the same gender?
36.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	providing legal recognition of domestic partnerships?
37.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	prohibiting discrimination in housing against unmarried individuals residing together?
38.	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	Do you support mandatory AIDS testing for insurance or employment?
			Do you support mandatory drug testing
39.			for public sector employees?
40.			for private sector employees?
	ESSAY		Under what circumstances? Under limited circumstances I can imagine supporting random drug testing for certain public safety employees—CTA drivers, for example. In an ideal world, the testing would be about the individual's competence to perform the task. But not every worker is tested daily, and when hundreds of lives are on the line testing may be

			justified. Random testing, arguably, discourages illegal drug use—although I’m not sure we have clear evidence on that point. Since the testing could uncover trace amounts of cough syrup, rather than illicit drugs, it would be important to make sure employees have full due-process rights. I would apply the same standards to private sector testing—airplane pilots, for example, with fair rights of appeal.
41.	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	Should state police be allowed to stop vehicle operators to test for DUI on grounds other than probable cause?
42.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Would you support legislation to include data on pedestrian, as well as motor vehicle, stops by police for the purpose of gathering statistics on racial profiling?
	YES	NO	
43.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Would you support amending current racial profiling legislation to add collection of data on persons of Middle Eastern origin?
44.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support repeal of legislation that permits employers to eavesdrop on the telephone conversations of their employees?
45.	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	Do you favor detention of suspects and material witnesses without charges and/or probable cause?
Labor			
46.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you favor restructuring the wage scale of state employees to correct disparities based on gender by instituting equal pay for jobs of comparable worth?
47.	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	Do you support privatization of state services?
	ESSAY If so, which services? Unfortunately, the real rationale behind many privatization efforts is to cut wages and/or benefits.		
48.	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	Would you support contracting for outside services with companies located outside Illinois? Why or why not? See above.
49.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support the right of public employees to strike?
50.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support legislation banning the replacement of strikers in private employment?
51.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support family leave legislation for employees of private companies not currently covered by federal law?
			Do you support
52.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	raising the minimum wage to establish a living wage for Illinois workers? I shepherded legislation through the Illinois House to do just that.
53.	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	establishing a lower minimum wage for minors?
54.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	including farm workers and household employees under existing labor laws?
Health & Human Services			
55.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Will you support a single-payer health plan for Illinois?
	ESSAY If so, how would Medicaid be incorporated into the program you support? It’s critical that		

			Medicaid be incorporated into any single-payer program on the same terms and conditions as everyone else. Our goal should be affordable, quality health care for all. Distinguishing between Medicaid and other users risks the same two-tiered system we have today.
56.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Will you support sufficient funding to provide community based services for discharged mental health patients?
			Do you support:
57.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	legislation which would guarantee that abortion remains legal in Illinois, to the extent it is currently available, in the event of Roe v. Wade being overturned or diminished?
58.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Medicaid funding for abortions?
59.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	insurance coverage of abortions for state employees?
60.	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	parental consent/notification for minors seeking abortions?
61.	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	banning so-called partial-birth abortions?
62.	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	any other restrictions on abortions? Please specify. I support a woman's right to reproductive choice, and I support the adoption of the Roe v. Wade standard for Illinois.
	YES	NO	
63.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support increasing appropriations to the Department of Children and Family Services to increase the number of caseworkers?
64.	ESSAY		What services, if any, would you offer to those whose time on Welfare has run out and do not have adequate income to support themselves and their families? It's important to remember that most of the people on the basic welfare program, TANF, are children. I think we have a responsibility to those youngsters, and I would support continuing cash benefits as well as job-readiness services.
Housing			
65.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you favor legislation banning housing discrimination against holders of Section 8 vouchers?
			Would you support legislation
66.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	mandating that landlords give tenants notice prior to entering their units?
67.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	assessing penalties against landlords who engage in illegal or retaliatory evictions?
Energy & Environment			
68.	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	Do you support an elected ICC? I support a short ballot. Accountability for the quality of Illinois Commerce Commission appointments today rests with the Governor. An unaccountable ICC can and should be a key re-election issue for the Governor.
69.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Should Illinois institute a Renewable Portfolio Standard requiring all energy providers in Illinois to sell minimum amounts of their energy from renewable sources?
70.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Should Illinois adopt the International Energy Conservation Code for residential buildings?
71.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Will you support ratification of the Great Lakes Annex Compact if it restricts out-of-basin diversion of Great Lakes waters?
72.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Would you support legislation that would provide state technical assistance funds to local

			communities to help them prepare and implement comprehensive smart growth plans to avoid the costs of rapid unplanned growth and urban sprawl?
73.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Would you support legislation requiring registration and monitoring of confined feedlot waste treatment/disposal and licensing of third party waste haulers?
			Do you support
74.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	expansion of O'Hare airport? I support the current modernization project.
75.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	expansion of other regional airports? If so, which? I'm not sure whether an expanded Gary or Rockford could solve our airport capacity needs, but we should carefully examine those options.
76.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	building a new airport in Peotone? The horse is out of this barn. The state has already embarked upon land acquisition at Peotone. The actual building of a Peotone airport still faces several hurdles, however, including the structure of governance and federally required environmental studies.
			Do you support
77.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	inter-city high speed rail?
78.	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	the current formula for allocation of funds to CTA, Metra and PACE? The current formula shortchanges the CTA and it's well past time for a revision.
			Criminal Justice
			Do you support state legislation to ban the manufacture, sale and possession of
79.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	handguns?
80.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	assault weapons?
	YES	NO	
			Do you support
81.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	legislation increasing penalties for illegal resale of weapons?
82.	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	legislation permitting the licensing of concealed weapons?
83.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	legislation mandating background checks of purchasers of weapons at gun shows, through the internet and through print advertisements?
			Do you support:
84.	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	capital punishment?
85.	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	criminal prosecution of juveniles as adults?
86.	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	mandatory sentencing?
87.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	work release, home monitoring, other alternative sentencing?
88.	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	admissibility of illegally obtained evidence?
89.	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	electronic eavesdropping? I don't oppose, of course, if a warrant has been issued based on probable cause.
90.	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	roving wiretaps?
91.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you favor continuation of the current moratorium on capital punishment in Illinois?
	ESSAY		If not, how would you address the inequities enumerated in the report of the Commission on the Death Penalty?